

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for characterizing a particle, wherein the apparatus comprises
 - (a) an electrical charge sensor adapted to determine an electrical charge on the particle, wherein the electrical charge sensor includes a pathway for the particle and a plurality of electrodes spaced along the pathway arranged to provide an electrical output as the particle passes along the pathway, wherein the outermost electrodes are grounded, wherein two electrodes adjacent to outermost two electrodes are interconnected, and wherein a signal is derived from the difference between the central electrode and the two interconnected electrodes and;[[,]]
 - (b) an optical device adapted to determine a second characteristic of the particle, wherein the apparatus is adapted to provide an indication of the nature of the particle according to the charge and the second characteristic.
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second characteristic is size.
- 3.-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 [[4]], wherein the pathway is provided by an electrically insulative tube and, wherein the plurality of electrodes are provided on an external surface of the tube.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 [[4]], wherein there are five electrodes spaced along the pathway.
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the tube has an internal diameter of substantially 0.5mm.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising a filter adapted to prevent particles greater than substantially 10 μ m from entering the tube.

10.-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for measuring a charge on a particle, wherein the apparatus comprises a tube comprising a first end and a second end along which the particle is arranged to flow, a first and a second outer electrode, wherein the first outer electrode is located adjacent to the first end and the second outer electrode is located adjacent to the second end, a third electrode adjacent to the first outer electrode and a fourth electrode adjacent to the second outer electrode, a fifth electrode located between the third and fourth electrodes, a connection connecting the first and second outer electrodes to ground, a connection connecting the third electrode to the fourth electrode and connecting the connected third and the fourth electrodes to a measuring circuit, and a connection connecting the fifth electrode to the measuring circuit, wherein the measuring circuit is adapted to subtract the signals on the third and fourth electrodes from the signal on the fifth electrode to derive a signal indicative of the charge on the particle.

13.-17. (Cancelled).